



**U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement**

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News Release

ICE ARRESTS 4 GANG MEMBERS IN QUAD CITIES AREA

ROCK ISLAND COUNTY, Ill. — Four Mexican gang members were arrested by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) special agents in the Quad Cities area last week as part of a nationwide anti-gang initiative called Operation Community Shield.

ICE agents, in conjunction with the FBI Gang Task Force and the U.S. Marshals Service Violent Fugitive Task Force, arrested four suspected gang members on immigration charges early Thursday at their homes and places of employment. Three of those arrested have already been convicted of various crimes that include drug possession, unlawful use of a weapon, and burglary.

Those arrested during the gang operation are: Alejandro Lule-Enriquez, 31, an illegal alien arrested as his Rock Island, Ill. residence; Hugo Chicoa-Arreguin, 33, an illegal alien with convictions for possessing drugs and obstructing justice, who was arrested at work in Joslin, Ill.; Isidoro Espinoza-Miranda, 32, an illegal alien with convictions for aggravated battery and unlawful use of a weapon, who was arrested at work in Moline, Ill.; and Pedro Gutierrez-Vega, 22, a permanent resident whose convictions for unlawful use of a weapon and burglary make him subject to deportation. He was arrested at work in Davenport, Iowa.

All four have been placed in deportation proceedings and are being held in ICE custody at the Tri-County Detention Facility.

ICE launched Operation Community Shield in January to target and dismantle violent street gangs across the country. ICE's combined authorities for enforcing immigration and customs laws are powerful tools in fighting the growth of these criminal organizations. ICE has gathered thousands of names of known and suspected gang members from state and local law enforcement, and is comparing those names against immigration databases to determine immigration status and deportability. ICE can also investigate the money laundering, financial crimes and other cross-border crimes typically committed by street gangs.

“This initiative is a perfect example of ICE putting its resources to work for the community,” said ICE Special Agent-in-Charge Elissa Brown. “Violent gangs are committing crimes and causing incredible public safety issues in our communities. We use our resources to target violent gang members, and ultimately remove them from the country.” Brown heads the ICE Chicago Office of Investigations, which includes the states of: Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Missouri and Wisconsin.

Working with ICE Detention and Removal Operations, ICE Office of Investigations uses deportation as another tool to target gang members. Re-entering the U.S. after formal deportation is a felony punishable by up to 20 years in prison. Gang members who return to the U.S. after deportation face stiff jail sentences if ever they’re encountered by any law enforcement agency.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.